

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2021

SPEECH OF

HON. ALAN S. LOWENTHAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2020

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to offer this amendment, which specifies that \$30 million dollars already provided within NASA's Science Mission Directorate should be set aside for NASA to procure dedicated small launch services for its small satellite missions.

This amendment builds off report language included in the FY21 Commerce, Justice, Science bill that directs NASA to work with industry to procure tailored launch services for small satellite science missions. It does not increase spending or transfer money from other line items.

I would like to thank my colleagues, Rep. STEVEN PALAZZO and DARREN SOTO, for their leadership and support on this amendment.

Small satellites are playing a big role in our country's space efforts. They are low-cost, easy to produce, and capably achieve a range of missions—including climate and weather monitoring and communications links that connect the world. They support our nation's soldiers in theater, provide hands-on research and learning opportunities for students across the country, and augment our deep space exploration. To support these satellite missions, a market has developed where companies building and operating small rockets to provide what is called "dedicated launch"—taking these satellites where they need to be, when they need to be there.

Long Beach, California, in my district, is home to several of these small launch companies. Together, they employ over a thousand individuals in high-skill, high-wage jobs. They are the future of our industrial ingenuity, technological leadership, and inspiration for the next generation to pursue STEM and aerospace careers.

Dedicated small launch will maximize NASA's returns on small satellite science missions by lowering costs, increasing launch opportunities, and taking these satellites exactly where they need to be. I am pleased to offer and support this amendment, which will build off the momentum the Appropriations Committee has established to enable greater science, research, and education using small satellites and small launch.

I urge my colleagues to also support this amendment, and our country's continued leadership in aerospace.

IN MEMORY OF MR. JOE LENHARD

**HON. CHARLES J. "CHUCK"
FLEISCHMANN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 2020

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Joe Lenhard of Oak Ridge, Tennessee and recognize his lifetime of service in his community and to our nation. Mr. Lenhard passed away on July 17, 2020.

Born on June 18, 1929 outside of Detroit, Mr. Lenhard graduated from East Detroit High School in 1947 and enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He came to Oak Ridge in 1957 for summer training and stayed in the city for the rest of his life.

Mr. Lenhard served at the U.S. Department of Energy for 32-years, from 1957 to 1982 and for the last 15-years of his employment, he was responsible for all research and development activities within Oak Ridge Operations. During his career with the DOE, Mr. Lenhard received numerous federal awards for his work at the Department's Oak Ridge Operations. After his retirement in 1989 with 35-years of federal service, he was an active member of the local community serving as the Oak Ridge Chamber of Commerce president in 1992 and chair of the East-Tennessee Economic Council in 1993 and 1994. He also in 1994, helped to found CROET which helps to find ways to reuse former federal assets such as property and equipment.

Beyond his service to Oak Ridge, Mr. Lenhard was a generous benefactor to the University of Tennessee and Roane State Community College, and often shared his memories and history of Oak Ridge with local reporters and members of the community.

Joe Lenhard was a great patriot and a dedicated servant to his nation and community. East-Tennessee and the City of Oak Ridge have lost a great man, and I am honored to join with countless others to remember and honor a true American patriot.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID J. TRONE

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 2020

Mr. TRONE. Madam Speaker, had I been present for roll call vote 172 to approve H.R. 7327, the Child Care for Economic Recovery Act, I would have voted YEA.

HONORING RICK DOYLE

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 2020

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Rick Doyle on his retirement.

In 1979, Mr. Doyle was admitted to the California State Bar, after receiving his law degree from the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law. For ten years he specialized in municipal finance and business litigation with the Law Firm of Jensen and Doyle. In 1989, he began working with the City of San Jose as a Senior Deputy Attorney and was later promoted to Chief Deputy Attorney in 1992. He left for five years to work as City Attorney in Concord, but returned to San Jose in 2000, to be City Attorney. In his twenty years of service since then, he has advised three different mayors, 38 councilmembers and six city managers during his tenure.

Throughout this time, he has dedicated himself to helping San Jose move forward no matter what challenges arose. As City Attorney, Mr. Doyle, worked on a wide array of issues from lawsuits against the city, to bringing initiatives forward, to making sure that the process is fair and followed by everyone. With each day, he would face new and interesting challenges from negotiating with the FAA for a new San Jose Airport curfew, to advising the city during challenges to pension reductions for public employees. While his work was at times in the background to the public, his impact was great on our community.

Mr. Doyle has helped navigate our city through many obstacles and through many changes. We thank him for his commitment to San Jose and for dedicating his life to public service. I wish him the very best in his retirement and on this exciting next stage of his life.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2021

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2020

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 7617, the Defense, Commerce, Justice, Science, Energy and Water Development, Financial Services and General Government, Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2021.

This defense funding package continues to make strong investments in our nation's national security and in turn Connecticut's robust defense manufacturing base. It also includes a needed pay raise for our troops. Thousands of Connecticut residents work on programs supporting our military and many more benefit

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

from economic activity these contributions bring to our state. This funding will help spur Connecticut's economy during these difficult times and secure thousands of jobs at larger employers like Pratt & Whitney and hundreds of smaller suppliers across the First District and the state.

Throughout the years, the Connecticut delegation has worked hand in glove with suppliers, companies, and educators to bring Connecticut to the forefront of advanced manufacturing. The Delegation, led by JOE COURTNEY and ROSA DELAURO, have worked hard to ensure not only the manufacturing base, but the supply chain remain on top. This was recently demonstrated in the Hartford Courant, which cited a Pew Charitable Trusts Study that said: 'Pentagon contract spending powers Connecticut to No. 1 in US.' This builds on the work of the F-35 Joint Strike fighter caucus which I'm proud to co-chair. This is good news for our supply chain and economy during a time when commercial spending is down. These military contracts will keep these jobs going.

In addition to the vital funding that directly contributes to our state, this package fights back against the President's ill-conceived border wall, by preventing the use of Defense funds being used for the wall. It also ensures that the President cannot go to war without Congress's authorization by prohibiting funds from being used in contravention of the War Powers Resolution. It specifically prohibits funds for any use of military force in or against Iran and repeals both the 2001 and the 2002 war authorizations. The power to go to war lies with Congress, not the President. These are important provisions to ensure the Executive Branch does not overstep its authority.

The passage of the FY 2021 Labor-HHS Appropriations package is a win for millions of Social Security beneficiaries. It blocks a proposed rule that would dramatically increase the frequency of continuing disability reviews. These reviews can be extremely difficult for individuals with severe disabilities to navigate and can lead to wrongful loss of Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits when they are unable to complete the complex process. This rule was an attempt to throw beneficiaries off the rolls. The bill also blocks a Trump Administration proposed rule to deny individuals their right to appeal a denial of Social Security or SSI benefits before an Administrative Law Judge.

I am thankful for the leadership of Chairwomen NITA LOWEY and ROSA DELAURO for making this happen. Chairwoman DELAURO always fights for the least among us and she continued that with this bill.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2021

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2020

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of three amendments to H.R. 7617.

My amendment, offered with Mr. WITTMAN, Ms. LURIA, and Mr. BEYER, reflects the need to adequately fund the important work done at

Jefferson Lab. JLab, in my district in Newport News, is home to the Continuous Electron Beam Accelerator Facility, also known as CEBAF, the primary research tool in the U.S. for enabling basic research on the quark and gluon structure of protons and neutrons. Worldwide, a community of more than 1,700 scientists from over 275 institutions depend on this facility for their research.

The City of Newport News has agreed to transfer ownership of a building to the Lab to support its work, but the \$2 million included in this year's appropriations bills fall short of the \$9 million needed to transfer that building and move forward with the renovation and expansion of CEBAF, for which the Department of Energy has already approved Critical Decision 0.

I also rise today in support of the amendment offered with my colleagues, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. MCEACHIN, Ms. LURIA, Ms. SPANBERGER, and Ms. WEXTON, in regard to the urgent need for robust funding to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for coastal construction projects. The Army Corps has worked to keep America's waterways and ports open to trade, while working with our communities to ensure that they can continue to live with the water that surrounds Hampton Roads.

My district is home to the Port of Virginia which is one of the largest and busiest ports on the eastern seaboard. With 95 percent of our nation's trade moving by water, it is essential that the port is able to maintain operations. The Port of Virginia is responsible for nearly \$40 billion in economic activity in the Commonwealth of Virginia. It is critical to our financial well-being that we ensure that the Port is able to handle to the increased number and size of containers. The Port and the Army Corps of Engineers have undertaken the dredging and widening and deepening of the Norfolk Harbor to enable safe and efficient two-way passage of the new larger container ships. The project will require a New Start designation to keep the projected time line intact.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting additional funding to support our National Labs and the construction at the Norfolk Harbor to keep both of these essential projects moving forward.

I also rise in support of Rep. MURPHY's amendment which I was proud to cosponsor, as co-chair of the Modeling and Simulation Caucus, along with Rep. BERGMAN, an active caucus member. This amendment emphasizes the importance of funding for the Synthetic Training Environment (STE) account. Funding for the Synthetic Training Environment program is an investment in simulation technology to help service members train virtually for their missions. Advancing modeling and simulation technology is a long-term investment that enables us to remain competitive in with innovations in medicine, training, and transportation and I urge my colleagues to support these investments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 2020

Mr. JORDAN. Madam Speaker, during Wednesday's roll call vote on the motion to re-

commit H.R. 7027, I was participating in the Judiciary Committee's Antitrust, Commercial, and Administrative Law Subcommittee hearing on online platforms. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of the motion.

HONORING MRS. EVELYN
WILLIAMS

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 2020

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, it is with great joy that I rise to recognize a very special birthday for a beloved constituent of Florida's 23rd Congressional District.

Mrs. Evelyn Williams celebrates her 105th birthday on August 2, 2020.

Mrs. Williams is a resident of Dania Beach and has spent a long life as a pioneer and community leader. Born in 1915, she has witnessed over a century of development and societal evolution. Mrs. Williams was born in Mosely Town, Georgia and raised in neighboring Vidalia. She and her husband Alonzo Williams moved to Coconut Grove, Florida in 1935.

Mrs. Williams served as a Sunday School teacher, Deaconess, and as a Mission Society representative, regularly visiting ailing and elderly people in the neighborhood and local nursing home.

Her contributions to her church are matched by her quiet but encouraging influence in the community. She financially supported many young people in the area in pursuing their college education and professional goals. She served in the Broward Civic Improvement Association—a community service organization active in Dania Beach—during the 1950s and 1960s.

Mrs. Williams has also been commended for serving Broward County as a dedicated poll worker for more than 50 years, registering voters and carrying the message that voting is a responsibility and privilege.

She has been recognized by both the Dania Beach Historical Society and Broward County Historical Commission as a Broward County Pioneer. She remains an active member of the New Jerusalem Baptist Church and I am grateful to the New Jerusalem family for coming together so we may all celebrate this special occasion.

It is with great pride that I represent Mrs. Evelyn Williams and the residents of Dania Beach in our nation's capital. I thank Mayor Lori Lewellen, the Members of the City Commission, and the city staff for protecting the wellbeing of our residents and for working tirelessly to make the City of Dania Beach a wonderful place to live, work, visit, and raise a family.

CAPTAIN E. THOMAS "TOM"
PINNELL III

HON. JOE CUNNINGHAM

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 2020

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Marine Corps Captain E.

Thomas “Tom” Pinnell III, who will be promoted to the rank of Major this weekend. Capt. Pinnell was commissioned into the Marine Corps in 2010. A college baseball athlete, Capt. Pinnell has earned the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar’s “Athlete of the Year” award not once, but twice. He may not reach the status of a future Hall of Famer like Yadier Molina of his cherished St. Louis Cardinals, but Capt. Pinnell’s athleticism set him up to represent Team USA in the CISM Military World Cup.

Capt. Pinnell has also given back to the Marine Corps as a top recruiter, selecting the best and brightest to lead the next generation of Marines. His expertise won him the title of “Recruiter of the Year” of the Midwestern Region.

In the coming months, Capt. Pinnell will transition from active duty to the reserves in order to begin a promising career in the practice of law. Capt. Pinnell and his wonderful wife, Lisa, just welcomed into the world their third child, Weston, little brother to Theo and Davis.

Capt. Pinnell is a loving father who has given many years of service to this great nation. Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Capt. Pinnell for his promotion and in wishing him all the best on his endeavors.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2021

SPEECH OF

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2020

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Soto Amendment, Soto number 77 to Division B, the Department of the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2021, specified that at least \$40,000,000 from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration’s Planetary Science budget to be applied to the general budget and applied to the Near Earth Object Surveillance Mission (NEOSM).

Space may be vast, but it’s not empty. Earth is bombarded by tiny space rocks called meteoroids every day, most of which burn up in our atmosphere. Larger meteors, like the one that exploded over Chelyabinsk, Russia in 2013, can damage buildings and cause minor injuries. And on rare occasions, asteroids and comets strike Earth and cause global devastation—the dinosaurs perished when this happened 66 million years ago.

NEOSM is a 50-centimeter-wide telescope. Its camera sees things in infrared wavelengths—a type of light not visible to human eyes. Infrared light reveals heat signatures, which is perfect for asteroids because they are very dark and hard to see against the blackness of space. In infrared light, they glow because they heat up in the Sun and re-radiate that heat back into space.

This is the impetus behind NEOSM, NASA’s Near-Earth Object Surveillance Mission. NEOSM would launch as soon as 2025 and within 10 years meet Congress’s goal of finding 90 percent of near-Earth objects 140 meters and wider. Finding and studying these objects will not only help us figure out if any are on course to hit Earth, but will also help lay the groundwork for survey and deflection missions if one is found.

I support ensuring funding for the Near Earth Surveillance Mission efforts to identify potentially hazard near Earth objects and thank my colleagues for their support of my amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 2020

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote on July 27, 2020 due to not being in DC. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: YES on Roll Call No. 167.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2021

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2020

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 7617, the Defense, Commerce, Justice, Science, Energy and Water Development, Financial Services and General Government, Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development Appropriations Act, for fiscal year 2021, which has included multiple of my priorities critical to the communities I represent. These provisions fund our nation’s most critical programs that support individuals, families, and communities throughout their lifespan, from Early Head Start to Social Security. We are dedicated to investing in programs that provide opportunities so that every person has a better chance at a better life—with a good education, a good job, and access to affordable healthcare.

This bill provides modest increases for the National Science Foundation and the National Institute of Standards and Technology. The National Science Foundation is the only agency to fund research across all fields of science and engineering, and the most important agency in terms of ensuring a diverse pipeline of STEM talent across our nation. The National Institute of Standards and Technology is the global leader in measurement science and standards, and as such plays a central role in U.S. competitiveness across all sectors of our economy. However, it is one of most underfunded agencies in our government for what it is asked to do and what it is capable of doing for our nation. In addition, our nation’s progress in industries of the future such as artificial intelligence, quantum science, and 5G will simply not be possible without increased investments in these two agencies. I truly understand the difficult and sometimes delicate trade-offs that my Appropriations colleagues had to make in crafting this legislation. However, I urge my colleagues across Congress to find a way to invest in our nation’s future by investing more in our nation’s STEM talent.

Regarding funding for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), I am pleased that the bill rejects the proposed cuts to high-priority science projects, including those that will provide important climate

change measurements, and science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) programs. We simply cannot afford to cut-off our future—the building of our next generation’s skills and the development of a 21st century workforce. Overall, the bill sustains NASA’s multi-mission portfolio at the Fiscal Year 2020 enacted level of \$22.629 billion, providing level or near-level funding for NASA’s science, exploration, and space technology accounts, and provides \$35 million increase for aeronautics, which contributes important research and development for our nation’s civil aviation and air transportation system. The bill also sustains funding for critical exploration capabilities, including the Space Launch System and Orion crew vehicle. Toward that end, I’m pleased that the bill continues to fund the development of an exploration upper stage-enabled Space Launch System, which will provide greater lift capacity to support our deep space exploration activities. In addition, the bill provides important flexibility to the agency in selecting a launch vehicle for the high-priority Europa Clipper science mission; that flexibility could help reduce overall mission cost while also seeking to expedite science results. It is also worth noting that the bill allows for up to \$1 million from the Safety, Security, and Mission Services account to be available to meet mandated payments to the Challenger Center as NASA explores alternative means to ensure the ongoing payments.

With respect to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the bill supports the Office of Commercial Space Transportation (AST)’s important functions of licensing and monitoring the safety of commercial space launches and reentries, as well as spaceports, at \$27.555 million, an increase of \$1.515 million (6 percent) from the FY 2020 enacted appropriation. I am also pleased that the bill sustains \$192.665 million for the FAA’s research, engineering, and development programs, which contribute R&D to improve the safety and efficiency of the national airspace system and reduce the environmental impact.

I am supportive of the \$5.45 billion provided for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in this bill, which is \$828 million above the Administration’s short-sighted budget request. This includes robust investments in intramural and extramural research at NOAA and restoration of funding to proposed cuts to, or eliminations of, coastal resilience grants, National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science, the National Sea Grant Program, Tsunami Warning System, the Air Resources Laboratory, and the NOAA Office of Education. At a time when Americans face compound threats of the COVID-19 pandemic on top of climate change-fueled intense heat, hurricanes, and other extreme weather events, it is imperative that we have accurate and timely climate and weather predictions, preparedness, and response. I am pleased to see enhanced support for weather research, modeling, and forecasting, as well as National Weather Service forecaster staffing levels. As our planet continues to warm, sea levels rise, ice sheets melt, and other changes occur due to anthropogenic climate change, authoritative climate research and information remains more important than ever to help our communities address these resulting impacts. I am

also pleased to see restored funding for authoritative reports such as the National Climate Assessments and the Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments program to help provide regions with decision making support services and tools.

This bill makes much needed investments at the Department of Energy, which supports the world-class facilities and expertise of our national laboratories as well as many important activities at our universities and in the private sector. DOE also serves as one of our most valuable tools in the fight against climate change. Alone, the \$12.5 billion dedicated to DOE's non-defense research, development, and demonstration activities in this bill would amount to a slight cut of 0.2 percent compared to FY20 enacted levels. However, the bill also includes \$12.4 billion in additional, critical research infrastructure investments. Thus DOE's Office of Science, ARPA-E, and other applied energy programs would all receive significant funding increases under this bill, which would significantly enhance the development of new clean energy technologies and provide valuable support to the U.S. research enterprise when such support is desperately needed.

I also want to speak on important provisions within the Health and Human Services funding division. In consideration of our current public health crisis, this appropriations bill rebuilds our nation's aging public health infrastructure by providing \$24.425 billion in emergency spending to support state and local public health departments, public health laboratories, and global health activities. This investment is essential to developing national resilience amid the current pandemic caused by the novel coronavirus and from future public health threats. We also have included operational and contingency funding to assist states with the unanticipated unemployment insurance workloads, as millions of individuals have come to rely on such benefits to survive the current economic turmoil.

Among the multiple laudable improvements made in this bill, I am specifically encouraged by the inclusion of my report language on telehealth training and education for Medicaid beneficiaries. Our nation has recognized the potential for telehealth, remote monitoring, and digital health technologies to help meet the needs of patients and families, especially during this public health emergency. As healthcare providers expanding their delivery of virtual care, we must have a comprehensive understanding of the training and education needs of beneficiaries and caregivers on how to successfully utilize such telehealth services and technologies. My language directs the Administration of Community Living to work with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and other stakeholders to develop such resources that account for age-related differences in our interactions with technology.

With all that is happening across our nation, we must make sure that our communities have the mental health services and support their need to withstand and recover from these months of turmoil. That is why I am proud of the \$21 million allocated for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, which is \$2 million more than last year. Additionally, this bill includes \$758 million for the Community Mental Health Services Block Grant, which will provide our states and territories the mental health resources that are so needed during these times.

This bill also includes critical funding for lupus programs, which I supported as co-chair of the Congressional Lupus Caucus. The National Lupus Patient Registry at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is to receive \$8.5 million, and the Office of Minority Health and their National Lupus Training, Outreach, and Clinical Trial Program is to receive \$2 million.

Now, let me turn my attention to the Education funding division. As we continue to address the needs of Americans during this pandemic, I am happy to see that this bill includes critical funding necessary to ensure our young people have access to quality education, whether it be at home, in school, or a hybrid model. I am particularly pleased to see the subcommittee recommend \$28.5 million in funding for the Innovative Approaches to Literacy program. This is an increase of \$1.5 million over the Fiscal year 2020 funding level. The increased funding for this program will ensure that schools, libraries, and non-profits can continue providing books and other literary materials to families in high need communities. As we try to address the stark differences in educational opportunity during this pandemic, programs like IAL are needed more than ever to ensure underserved students do not fall further behind in the areas of literacy and writing.

This bill also increases funding for Title I schools, Head Start, and special education programs, ensuring that the most vulnerable and needy get the services they need in the classroom.

Regarding Higher Education, this bill increases funding to various HBCU programs and raises the maximum Pell Grant amount by \$150 to \$6,495. This funding increase will help students keep up with the rising cost of higher education.

Regarding the funding provisions for the Department of Housing and Urban Development, I am pleased at the increased investments made to affordable housing and homelessness programs. We have dedicated \$9.1 billion for the Office of Community Planning and Development, an increase of \$1.1 billion above the 2020 enacted level. There is also \$3.5 billion for Community Development Block Grants, a critical program that the President's budget request proposed to eliminate. As co-chair of the Congressional Homelessness Caucus, I am very supportive of the \$3.4 billion for Homeless Assistance Grants, which is \$638 million more than what was dedicated in fiscal year 2020. Multiple other programs have also received funding increases, including \$103 million for the Education for Homeless Children and Youth program, \$140 million for Runaway and Homeless Youth program, and \$57.5 million for the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program. With the economic upheaval caused by this coronavirus, we must be completely dedicated to preventing and alleviating homelessness, as that is the only way to lessen the difficulties currently experienced by our communities.

As representatives of Americans from all corners of our country, we have a responsibility to protect the livelihood and well-being of our families and communities, especially during this public health emergency. On behalf of the constituents of the 30th District of Texas, I urge my colleagues to support this funding bill for fiscal year 2021.

RECOGNIZING UTAH TEACHERS AND EDUCATORS

HON. BEN McADAMS

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 2020

Mr. McADAMS. Madam Speaker, all of us have fond memories of a favorite teacher—someone who became a mentor that inspired us to reach for our dreams. In ordinary times, classrooms are where we discover—with help from our teachers—the doors an education will open for us as we pursue our passions.

These are far from ordinary times. Just a few short months ago, kids left school on a Friday and then started the following Monday in an entirely new learning environment. They learned lessons from teachers talking to them on a computer screen, as teachers quickly shifted their lesson plans to online learning. Parents got a crash course in what it's like to keep children engaged with assignments and learning over a seven-hour day.

We have always asked a lot of our teachers and school principals in Utah. They juggle resources that are stretched thin. They must be prepared to teach children with a range of learning styles and abilities. They wear many hats beside that of teachers—counselor, referee, nurse, bookkeeper, fundraiser and organizational expert. This fall, they are being tested by a dramatically more difficult circumstance—preparing to go back to school in the face of a highly-contagious virus, about which not much is known, except that sometimes it can be lethal.

I'm a father of four school-age children and the son of a teacher. I like to think that I value and appreciate the teaching profession and unique ability teachers have, to connect a curious child's mind with knowledge, aspiration, and discipline.

As this unprecedented fall 2020 school year approaches, as we all struggle to make sense of what classrooms this fall will look like, I would like to salute all Utah teachers and staff and thank them for their extraordinary dedication to their work and to our children.

SARAH KEYS EVANS PLAZA RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 2020

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the profound contributions of North Carolina's own, Sarah Keys Evans, a civil rights pioneer in the fight against racial segregation, and to celebrate the unveiling of the Sarah Keys Evans Plaza in Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina. The unveiling Ceremony for the plaza will take place on Saturday, August 1, 2020; at the M.L. King Community Park.

Before the 1955 arrest of Rosa Parks and the Montgomery bus boycott that followed, there was Sarah Keys Evans. Her refusal to give up her seat on an interstate charter bus prompted the landmark court case, *Sarah Keys v. Carolina Coach Company*, in which the Interstate Commerce Commission outlawed the segregation of Black passengers in buses traveling across state lines.

On August 1, 1952, Women's Army Corps, Private Sarah Keys, boarded a bus in Trenton, New Jersey for her first home visit to North Carolina since joining the military. The bus she boarded would take her directly to her North Carolina destination without any required bus changes.

Once the bus reached Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina, a new driver took over the bus and as was custom, went through the bus and re-checked tickets. When he came to Ms. Keys, he told her to give up her seat to a white Marine who boarded the bus in Roanoke Rapids and move to the back of the bus. Tired from her long journey, Sarah refused.

Frustrated with her persistence, the bus driver announced that all passengers would be moving to a different bus, but the woman who refused to change her seat, referring to Ms. Keys, would not be allowed to board the new bus and would not be allowed to continue the trip.

Shortly thereafter, two police officers arrived at the bus terminal, took Sarah by the arms into a patrol car and drove her to the Roanoke Rapids police station. Because she refused to be subjected to unjust discrimination and prejudice, she was forced to stay in jail overnight and was fined before her release. Once Sarah arrived home and informed her family of the injustice she endured, her father encouraged her to seek legal action.

The NAACP referred the family to attorney Dovey Johnson Roundtree, who brought her case before the Interstate Commerce Commission. After battling initial rejection by an examiner and various barriers, three years later, the case was settled in 1955. In *Sarah Keys v. Carolina Coach Company*, the ICC ruled in favor of Keys Evans. In their decision, the Commission found the Interstate Commerce Act forbids segregation as the practice subjects passengers to "unjust discrimination, and undue and unreasonable prejudice and disadvantage, in violation of Section 216(d) of the Interstate Commerce Act and is therefore unlawful."

The fight for civil rights in America is a story heavy laden with unsung heroes and hidden figures who paved the way to progress. I am glad to know, that through the creation of the Sarah Keys Evans Plaza in Roanoke Rapids, the story of Sarah Keys Evans, an Army veteran and civil rights pioneer, will be displayed for all to see and learn from. It is my hope that her story of courage in the face of adversity will inspire others to never be afraid to stand up for what is right—even if that means staying in your seat.

Madam Speaker, North Carolinian Sarah Keys Evans, now 91 years-old, is a living example that change is possible if we are willing to stand up and fight for what is right. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the unveiling of the Sarah Keys Plaza in honor of a true civil rights pioneer.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARKWAYNE MULLIN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 2020

Mr. MULLIN. Madam Speaker, I was not present the week of July 27–31, 2020 on account of supporting my son's continuing recovery.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 167; NAY on Roll Call No. 168; NAY on Roll Call No. 169; YEA on Roll Call No. 170; NAY on Roll Call No. 171; NAY on Roll Call No. 172; NAY on Roll Call No. 173; NAY on Roll Call No. 174; NAY on Roll Call No. 175; YEA on Roll Call No. 176; YEA on Roll Call No. 177; and NAY on Roll Call No. 178.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2021

SPEECH OF

HON. BRADLEY SCOTT SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2020

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my two amendments, Amendment No. 137 and Amendment No. 138, both which work to address the incidents of domestic terror that are increasing across the country.

According to the Anti-Defamation League, in 2019, domestic extremists killed at least 42 people in the United States in 17 separate incidents. This number makes 2019 the sixth deadliest year on record for domestic extremist-related killings. Last year, a Trump Administration Department of Justice official wrote in a New York Times op-ed that "white supremacy and far-right extremism are among the greatest domestic-security threats facing the United States." Regrettably, over the past 25 years, law enforcement, at both the Federal and State levels, has been slow to respond.

It is not enough to just condemn hate; we need to equip law enforcement with the tools needed to identify threats and prevent violent acts of domestic terrorism.

I am pleased that these two amendments are included in H.R. 7617 to help address this urgent need to keep Americans safe from these heinous acts of discrimination.

The first, Amendment No. 137 allocates \$1 million to direct the FBI to track and report to Congress every year on extremist activity in law enforcement agencies. It is critical that our law enforcement agencies are held to the highest standards. My amendment allocates these funds for the FBI to combat white supremacist infiltration of the uniformed services and federal law enforcement.

The second, Amendment No. 138, allocates \$10 million in funds so that the FBI can assign a special agent or hate crimes liaison to each field office of the FBI to investigate hate crime incidents with a nexus to domestic terrorism, so that the agency has the resources in place to address this national issue.

I thank the Committee for including both of these important amendments in En Bloc 2.

The time is now to take the grave threat of domestic terrorism seriously. That means not only speaking out but giving our agencies the tools to combat it immediately. I believe these amendments are an important first step to effectively monitoring and putting a stop to extremist violence in America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GUY RESCENTHALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 2020

Mr. RESCENTHALER. Madam Speaker, quarantining in accordance with the Attending Physician's guidance after extensive interactions with an individual who tested positive for COVID-19.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 173; YEA on Roll Call No. 174; and NAY on Roll Call No. 175.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2021

SPEECH OF

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2020

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that this legislation includes important funding to support individuals, families, workers, small businesses and communities. I urge all Members to support the following amendments that I have offered to H.R. 7617, the Defense, Commerce, Justice, Science, Energy and Water Development, Financial Services and General Government, Homeland Security, Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2021 and I urge that they all be retained during further consideration of this measure.

MANAGERS AMENDMENT TO H.R. 7617

I want to thank Chairwoman LOWEY and Chairman QUIGLEY for including the text of the Garcia-Waters amendment in the manager's amendment, which was adopted by the Rule. The Garcia amendment would direct the Secretary of Treasury to negotiate a two-trillion-dollar allocation of Special Drawing Rights by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Such an increase would have an immediate benefit to developing countries around the world by providing them with additional resources to address the pandemic. This amendment comes at no cost to the Treasury and would demonstrate our commitment to a global and coordinated approach to addressing the coronavirus.

Special Drawing Rights, or SDRs, are a reserve asset created by the IMF that are used to augment the international reserves of its members countries, and a new allocation would provide quick and much-needed assistance to developing and emerging-market countries as they respond to the health and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

I do not share the concerns of some opponents of a new SDR allocation about the possible inflationary effect of such an allocation. An independent study at Harvard that closely examined this question concluded that any possible global inflationary impact of some increased import demand by developing countries following an allocation of SDRs would likely be neutralized by the monetary policies of the Federal Reserve, the European Central Bank, and other inflation-targeting central banks.

If SDRs were issued on a regular basis, I think this issue would be a concern—but they are not. The last general and special SDR allocation was issued in August 2009, and during the six months that followed—which was an exceptionally difficult time for the world economy—less than 2 percent of the total SDR allocation was exchanged for usable currencies. Thirteen countries sold nearly their total allocation; three additional countries made partial sales. There was no inflationary impact.

Importantly, the amendment also directs the Secretary of the Treasury to begin immediate efforts to reach an agreement with the G-20 group of nations to extend through the end of 2021 the current moratorium on debt service payments owed by the world's poorest countries to more advanced economies. This includes China, which is by far the largest official bilateral creditor to developing countries.

WATERS AMENDMENT NO. 215 TO H.R. 7617

On July 22, 2020, the SEC dealt a blow to investor protection and to the American people, when it adopted amendments to proxy voting rules which, among other things, increased issuer involvement in the advice that proxy advisors give to their clients. Waters Amendment No. 215 would prohibit the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) from using funds appropriated under this Act to implement, administer, or enforce this newly-adopted final rule because the rule harms shareholder voting rights and undermines the independence of advice provided to shareholders.

Proxy advisory firms play an important role in providing research and advice to shareholders regarding matters facing the companies they are investing in, and inform investors about the best way to vote in annual meetings. Thus, the integrity of that advice mandates that it be provided free of company management's conflicted input and unwarranted interference. Also, the regulations on proxy advisory firms, as adopted, may drive up costs for investors and make it more difficult for them to cast informed votes. The rule will also reduce the already-tight reporting window for providing reports to investors. And, perhaps most importantly, the SEC's misguided rule may tilt voting advice more favorably towards management. My amendment would prohibit the SEC from using funds appropriated under this Act to implement, administer, or enforce the newly-adopted final rule and will prevent the resulting harm.

This latest attack on shareholder rights is only compounded by the SEC's proposed changes to the shareholder proposal rule, that would make it more difficult for shareholders to offer and resubmit proposals for broad shareholder consideration. I appreciate that H.R. 7617 includes language to prevent the SEC from using funding to implement, administer, or enforce these proposed changes to the shareholder proposal rule.

WATERS AMENDMENT NO. 216 TO H.R. 7617

This amendment relates to ensuring that \$68.4 million of the \$273.5 million appropriated to the Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund are reserved for technical and financial assistance awards to minority Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs), including minority depository institutions (MDIs), and that the Fund report to Congress on the implementation of such allocation. This amount represents 40

percent of the \$171 million of funding made available for financial and technical assistance awards for all certified CDFIs.

We have learned in this pandemic how that minority-owned and minority-led financial institutions are critical to delivering access to capital to communities of color, the same communities that have been disproportionately and hardest hit. Unfortunately, following passage of the CARES Act, I quickly saw the problems with the Administration's efforts to roll out the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). Not only did the program set unreasonable barriers for CDFIs to participate, the Administration seemed to look the other way as the big banks turned away truly small businesses and minority-owned businesses, and instead provided concierge services to large companies that are publicly traded with ample financial resources.

When Congress began work on a second round of PPP funds, I worked with Speaker PELOSI and Small Business Committee Chairwoman NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ to ensure CDFIs would be able to access funds. We pushed for and successfully secured a \$60 billion set aside in the law for community lenders, including CDFIs and MDIs, to ensure they could deploy PPP funds to small businesses and minority-owned businesses in their communities. I also worked with Secretary Mnuchin to eliminate barriers so that more CDFIs could participate. These actions have produced results—CDFIs and MDIs have provided more than 213,000 PPP loans to small businesses, including many minority-owned businesses, totaling more than \$16.1 billion as of July 24, 2020. We have also included additional provisions in the Heroes Act—which the Senate should pass without further delay—to ensure CDFIs have a chance to help truly small businesses and minority-owned businesses in their communities during this pandemic. This included an emergency \$1 billion appropriation to the CDFI Fund.

I am pleased the underlying appropriations bill provides more resources than last year to the CDFI Fund, though we should ensure a portion of these funds go to minority-owned and minority-led CDFIs, including MDIs, to ensure these funds reach underserved areas. Unfortunately, the CDFI Fund does not track the demographics of who owns or runs the financial institutions receiving financial and technical assistance awards through its primary program. This amendment encourages the CDFI Fund to begin doing so, and to set aside funds to ensure MDIs and other minority-led CDFIs receive funds to support customers and small businesses desperate for a lifeline during these difficult times.

WATERS AMENDMENT NO. 339 TO H.R. 7617

This amendment would extend a deadline for housing counselors to meet a new certification requirement. In August of 2017, HUD began implementation of a new housing counselor certification requirement in which housing counselors had 36-months to pass a new certification examination. However, due in part to HUD's administrative delays that were exacerbated by the closure of certification examination testing sites as a result of the pandemic, we are now less than a week away from the certification deadline, and less than half of nearly 4,000 housing counselors are currently certified. HUD has requested the authority to extend this deadline to ensure that the availability of housing counseling services is not suddenly and dramatically reduced.

During the Great Recession, housing counseling services were a lifeline for more than 2 million homeowners. An evaluation conducted by the Urban Institute found that, when compared to homeowners who did not receive housing counseling services, counseled homeowners were three times more likely to secure loan modifications, received reduce mortgage payments, and were 70 percent more likely to remain current on their mortgages.

The current crisis is no different. Every day we are hearing from housing counselors across the country that homeowners and renters continue to lack vital in-language and culturally sensitive information about their rights under the CARES Act, do not understand what forbearance is or whether it is the right option for them, are unaware of local rent and mortgage relief funds, and continue to be misled by mortgage servicers about their rights under federal law. This signals a potential influx of households who would benefit greatly from credit counseling and other housing counseling services that are crucial to help manage their financial health and mitigate long-term harm during the pandemic.

At a time when millions of families are faced with the threat of foreclosure and eviction, damaged credit, and depleted savings, my amendment ensures homeowners and renters are not harmed by a lack of availability of housing counseling services during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. The ability of these families to stay housed and the economic health of the nation depend on it.

WATERS AMENDMENT NO. 150 TO H.R. 7617

Under this amendment, no funds may be used to contravene the duties and responsibilities of United States attorneys. In what was, tragically, just the latest example of the Attorney General interfering with the duties of a federal prosecutor, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, Geoffrey Berman, was forced out of office on June 20, 2020. Mr. Berman later revealed that the Attorney General repeatedly urged him to resign, a startling and suspicious revelation considering that Mr. Berman, in his capacity as U.S. Attorney for S.D.N.Y., was investigating a plethora of cases related to the Trump Administration, including charges against associates of Rudy Giuliani, investigations of Mr. Giuliani himself, and investigations into the finances of the Trump inaugural committee. This firing appears to be another example of the Attorney General using Department of Justice funds to benefit the president politically or personally. My amendment would make clear that such use of taxpayer dollars is utterly unacceptable and prohibited.

WATERS-SCHAKOWSKY-DINGELL AMENDMENT NO. 302 TO H.R. 7617

This amendment is designed to protect residents of nursing homes. The amendment prohibits the use of funds to finalize, implement, or enforce the Trump Administration's July 2019 proposed nursing home rule, which deregulates nursing homes and weakens infection prevention standards in them. This amendment is cosponsored by Congresswoman JAN SCHAKOWSKY, who introduced H.R. 6698, the Quality Care for Nursing Home Residents and Workers during COVID-19 Act, and Congresswoman DEBBIE DINGELL. Nursing home residents have been hit especially severely by the COVID-19 pandemic, and this is certainly no time to weaken the infection control standards that protect these vulnerable citizens.

WATERS-WATSON COLEMAN AMENDMENT NO. 303 TO H.R. 7617

This amendment prohibits the use of funds to require hospitals, hospital laboratories, and acute care facilities to report COVID-19 data using the “teletracking.protect.hhs.gov” website that was announced by the Department of Health and Human Services in the document entitled “COVID-19 Guidance for Hospital Reporting and FAQs for Hospitals, Hospital Laboratory, and Acute Care Facility Data Reporting Updated July 10, 2020”. This guidance update requires a data reporting process that circumvents the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) by ordering hospitals, hospital laboratories, and acute care facilities to send COVID-19 patient data directly to a database managed by Tele-Tracking, a private health data firm, and built by Palantir, the data mining company owned and operated by mega-Trump donor Peter Thiel. Sending COVID-19 data to a private firm instead of the CDC would harm our ability to track the spread of COVID-19.

WATERS-B. LEE-CHU AMENDMENT NO. 304 TO H.R. 7617

This amendment increases by \$5 million the funds within the account of the Office of the Secretary designated for the Minority AIDS Initiative. It is cosponsored by Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, the Co-Chair of the Congressional HIV/AIDS Caucus, and Congresswoman JUDY CHU. As a long-time leader on HIV/AIDS issues, I established the Minority AIDS Initiative in 1998, working with the Clinton Administration and the Congressional Black Caucus, and I know how important this program is for minority communities that continue to be severely and disproportionately impacted by HIV/AIDS. These additional funds will allow the Minority AIDS Initiative to provide HIV/AIDS prevention, screening, and treatment services to additional people in affected minority communities.

WATERS-C. SMITH AMENDMENT NO. 305 TO H.R. 7617

As the Co-Chair of the Congressional Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease, I offered Amendment No. 305 to increase by \$5 million the funds for the BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act. This bipartisan amendment is cosponsored by Congressman CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH, the Republican Co-Chair of the Congressional Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease. This amendment increases funds for BOLD from \$14.5 million to \$19.5 million, bringing the account close to the authorized level of \$20 million, in order to jump start the development of a public health infrastructure for Alzheimer's patients, their families, and their caregivers.

WATERS-SCHAKOWSKY AMENDMENT NO. 306 TO H.R. 7617

This amendment increases by \$5 million the funds for the Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health (AIM) within the Maternal and Child Health account of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The amendment is cosponsored by Congresswoman JAN SCHAKOWSKY. The AIM program assists state-based teams to improve the quality and safety of maternity care with the goal of reducing maternal mortality and improving maternal health. According to HRSA, the rate of pregnancy-related deaths in the U.S. has more than doubled since 1987, and non-Hispanic Black and American Indian/Alaskan Native women are significantly more likely to die from pregnancy related causes than non-Hispanic White women. An increase in funds for AIM will help

improve maternal health and enable more pregnant women to safely deliver their babies.

CONCLUSION

I want to thank the Rules Committee for making in order each of these amendments, and I urge my colleagues to vote “Yes” on each of these amendments.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CHIEF ROBERT KNOX ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AS THE CHIEF OF ZIONSVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 2020

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert Knox on the occasion of his retirement as the Chief of the Zionsville Police Department. Chief Knox has spent the last thirty-five years serving and protecting the people of Zionsville, including the last nine as Chief of Police. For the entirety of his career, Chief Knox was dedicated to his true calling as a public servant, rising through the ranks of the police department. The people of Zionsville and Indiana's Fifth Congressional District are forever grateful for Chief Knox's commitment to the law and the protection of the City of Zionsville.

Robert Knox grew up on the west side of Boone County where he attended Western Boone High School. Upon his graduation, Robert attended Vincennes University where he completed a four-year apprenticeship as a pipe fitter. During this time, Robert became a reserve officer for the Zionsville Police Department following in the footsteps of his father Darrel who was a military police officer. This is when he says he discovered his true calling as a police officer. Following his discovery, in 1982, Robert was offered a full-time job with the Lebanon Police Department. He graduated from the Law Enforcement Academy and on September 15, 1984, then returned to Zionsville to begin his career as a Zionsville Police Officer.

Robert fell in love with the community he was serving, getting to know the people and becoming a well-known community figure. His friends and colleagues know how adamant he is about getting out of his patrol car and getting to know the people he served and protected. Through the years, Robert rose through the ranks within the department. After his start as a patrolman, he advanced to detective, detective sergeant, detective lieutenant and captain in charge of the Criminal Investigations Division. During his time with investigations, Robert spent time assisting the Metro Drug Task Force, the Boone County Homicide Task Force and the Hamilton Boone County Joint Task Force. In 2011, after spending years serving and protecting the people of Zionsville, Robert was promoted to his role as Chief of Police.

As the chief of police, Robert continued his dedication to community engagement through programs such as “Coffee with a Cop,” the Teen and Citizens academies, the Drug Take Back program and more outreach programs all aimed at building a strong relationship with the community. Chief Knox had many successes during his tenure as the chief of ZPD, includ-

ing adjusting to a growing city. As the population increased, Chief Knox adjusted to the growth by adding officers and reinstating the department's K-9 unit. When Chief Knox was sworn in, the department had 25 full time employees and today the department has 38 full time officers, a 50% increase. Chief Knox's tenure also including partnering with Zionsville Community Schools to establish the School Resource Officer Initiative.

Chief Knox made a remarkable impact on his community and the lives of his friends, family and colleagues. He has truly left a legacy of success in the community of Zionsville and in the Fifth District of Indiana that will be built upon for years to come. On behalf of the City of Zionsville and the Fifth District of Indiana, I congratulate Chief Robert Knox on his extraordinary career and I extend my gratitude for all the wonderful contributions he made to our community. I wish the very best for Chief Knox and his entire family in whatever endeavor he takes on next.

IN RECOGNITION OF MISSOURI'S FIRST RESPONDERS

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 2020

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Missouri's first responders who work selflessly to keep our communities safe. I am tremendously proud and grateful for the Police Officers, Firefighters, and Emergency Medical Professionals who leave their own families and put themselves in harm's way to take care of others. Emergency Dispatchers communicate with terrified victims, frantic witnesses, worried family members and suicidal citizens. They are a calming influence for everyone who calls . . . the reassuring, competent voices in the night that offer peace, assistance, and comfort.

On any given day, first responders may be called to rescue someone from a burning building, break-up a vicious assault, settle a family dispute, or simply help a grandparent who has fallen. No matter what the situation demands . . . bravery, diplomacy, initiative, versatility or compassion . . . they provide exactly what is needed in that moment.

Just like during tornados and floods, first responders are on the frontlines of today's COVID-19 crisis and they are being put in situations that were unfathomable just a few months ago. EMS workers are struggling to keep up with a dramatic increase in 9-1-1 calls while enduring shortages of protective equipment and frequent exposure to the virus. Police departments are fighting to keep the peace when large numbers of their workforce are in quarantine and morale is challenged by anti-police rhetoric dominating the national discourse. Fire departments are often understaffed, especially in rural areas, but that doesn't stop them from working tirelessly to keep communities safe amid volunteer shortages. And, emergency dispatchers don't have the option to work from home . . . they are managing an increase in call volume while working in close quarters, which prevents social distancing.

Missouri's first responders embody the very best of the American spirit. With charity and

compassion, these brave men and women regularly put the well-being of others before their own. Through their actions they are heroes . . . through their example they are role models for all of us to emulate.

Madam Speaker, the current COVID-19 pandemic has presented Missouri's first responders with seemingly impossible challenges. Despite numerous obstacles, police officers, firefighters, emergency medical professionals and 9-1-1 dispatchers are showing up every day to care for their friends, neighbors, and communities. On behalf of a grateful community, I express my sincere thanks, and pray God blesses them all with peace and safety.

FIREFIGHTER EXCESS PERSONAL PROPERTY IN H.R. 6395, THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2021

HON. KIM SCHRIER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 2020

Ms. SCHRIER. Madam Speaker, I am pleased that my amendment to assess the Firefighter Property Program (FFP) and the Federal Excess Personal Property Program (FEPP) implementation and best practices was included in final passage of H.R. 6395, the National Defense Authorization Act of 2021.

I would also like to include in the RECORD a letter of support for my amendment from the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC).

The Department of Defense (DOD) Firefighter Property Program (FFP) and the Federal Excess Personal Property Program (FEPP) transfer excess equipment like hoses, trucks, and aircraft and vehicle parts to the U.S. Forest Service to be distributed to states. As the National Volunteer Fire Council notes, "many of the fire departments that take advantage of FFP and FEPP are located in rural areas that have relatively small tax bases and therefore lack the resources to afford new specialized equipment and vehicles to respond to wildland fires and other unique vulnerabilities in the communities that they serve."

The FFP and FEPP programs currently offer excess equipment on a first-come, first-served basis. As the nation is facing increasing threats of extreme fire events, states are not acquiring equipment in an equitable manner. This is due to a multitude of factors. My amendment requests an assessment of FFP and FEPP implementation and best practices, taking into account community need and risk, including whether a community is an at-risk community.

It additionally requires consultation with state implementers and program recipients which will allow us to understand how these programs are operating on-the-ground, and more importantly, how we can improve access for volunteer and small fire and emergency service providers in rural communities.

I am thankful to have the National Volunteer Fire Council's support for this amendment. I want to emphasize their request that the agencies carrying out the assessment required by this amendment "establish a process for volunteer fire departments and state and national organizations representing the interests of vol-

unteer fire departments to provide input into the assessment as part of consulting with 'participants in the programs.'"

As the FY2021 National Defense Authorization Act moves to conference, I ask that my colleagues work to include this important amendment in the final bill.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER FIRE COUNCIL,
Greenbelt, MD, July 22, 2020.

Hon. KIM SCHRIER, MD,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE SCHRIER: On behalf of the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC), which represents the interests of the nation's volunteer fire, EMS, and rescue services, I am writing regarding your amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act of 2020 directing the Department of Defense (DoD), acting through the Director of the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA), jointly with the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, to assess the Firefighter Property Program (FFP) and the Federal Excess Personal Property Program (FEPP).

As you know, the FFP and FEPP programs provide critical assistance to thousands of volunteer fire departments across the country each year by allowing them to acquire excess DoD property, including equipment and vehicles. Many of the fire departments that take advantage of FFP and FEPP are located in rural areas that have relatively small tax bases and therefore lack the resources to afford new specialized equipment and vehicles to respond to wildland fires and other unique vulnerabilities in the communities that they serve. These programs are extremely important to the volunteer fire service and I thank you for your interest in developing an assessment to evaluate ways that they can be improved.

One issue that I hope can be examined as part of the assessment is the extent to which additional resources could increase access to and participation in the FEPP and FFP programs by volunteer fire departments. Based on anecdotal evidence from our members I believe that more assistance devoted to helping process applications to acquire surplus property and transport surplus property from where it is stored to the fire department requesting it would make it easier for some agencies to take full advantage of these programs.

I am pleased that your amendment explicitly directs the agencies carrying out the assessment to "... consult with State foresters and participants in the programs..." State foresters play an important role in facilitating the acquisition of surplus property by fire departments in their states. Additionally, differences in state statutes authorizing fire department participation in the FEPP and FFP programs contribute to some of the variations we can observe in acquisition rates between states. All of these are important issues to be examined in the assessment. I would also encourage the Committee to direct the agencies carrying out the assessment to establish a process for volunteer fire departments and state and national organizations representing the interests of volunteer fire departments to provide input into the assessment as part of consulting with "participants in the programs."

Finally, I question the central role that DoD and DLA would play in developing the assessment under the amendment language. As you know, while DoD/DLA along with the General Services Administration are responsible for managing and disposing of a vast array of excess federal property, none of those agencies has anything to do with the management or administration of the FEPP or FFP programs, specifically. I encourage

the Committee to clarify that each agency tasked with carrying out the assessment focus on aspects of the programs that are appropriate given the scope of their actual role in administering the programs.

Thank you for your support for the FEPP and FFP programs, as well as the volunteer fire service generally. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

RON ROY,
Chair, NVFC Wildland
Committee, Division
Chief, Douglas
County Fire District
#2, East Wenatchee,
WA.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT, 2021

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2020

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the appropriations bill before us today. The bill we are debating is as partisan a bill as I have seen in my years on the appropriations committee. Not only does the package spend billions over the current bipartisan budget agreement, the bill also contains many policy items that have no place in an appropriations bill.

Despite ongoing negotiations for a new coronavirus relief package this bill adds another 24 billion dollars in coronavirus relief funding . . . this is in addition to the 3 trillion in supplemental funds that were passed in May and adding more funding beyond what was outlined in the Senate's HEALS Act.

This may seem like a worthy cause if we knew the bills were going to be signed by the President in the coming days, but that's not the case. Instead, we are sitting here wasting time and energy inserting these provisions that guarantee the bill will never be signed into law as is.

This bill contains seriously dangerous provisions that place our men and women in uniform in harm's way by repealing the AUMF's that guide our counterterrorism operations, it ties the president's hands with regard to Iran, and undercuts America's dominance of space and our ability to counter nations like China who want to gain supremacy there. Further, it eliminates several long-standing, bipartisan Second Amendment protections while also defunding the police and targeting law enforcement through overreaching regulations.

The amendments that have been made in order by the rule undercut our military leadership even further by making exemptions to policies put in place to preserve good order and discipline, turning our military into a social experiment instead of maintaining our readiness and capability as the world's preeminent fighting force.

Despite the inclusion of South Mississippi's priorities in this bill, such as ship and boat building in Pascagoula and Gulfport, rocket propulsion testing for Stennis Space Center, and many other coastal priorities, this bill fails to deliver what's necessary.

At a time where America is suffering, the country is in turmoil, and we are working to regain our footing as the world's top economy, this bill does more harm than good.

I urge a no vote on the legislation.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF PIH HEALTH DOWNEY HOSPITAL

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 2020

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize PIH Health Downey Hospital on its upcoming 100th anniversary. On September 14, 2020, the hospital will proudly celebrate and reflect on the 100 years of service and care that its facilities and its staff have provided. Through the years, the hospital has been a cornerstone of the Downey community, caring for generations of local residents.

From its beginnings as Virginia Hospital in 1920, with six beds and two doctors in rooms on the second floor of a former hotel on what is now Downey Avenue, this hospital's history has been eventful and full of advances. Within two years of its opening, an explosion in the city made the hospital's value clear and showed the need for larger facilities. Two years later, a new 15-bed hospital opened on East 5th Street.

In the 1930s, a group of five physicians purchased the hospital and renamed it Downey Community Hospital (DCH). Growth before and after World War II added operating rooms, modern X-ray equipment, maternity and obstetrics wards, and an emergency department with round-the-clock care. By 1956, the same year the city of Downey became incorporated, DCH reorganized as a nonprofit hospital with 49 beds.

In the mid-1960s, construction began on a new 152-bed facility at the current location on Brookshire Avenue. The day after this facility opened in 1969, eight surgeries were performed. Within a week, the hospital was full.

Over the subsequent decades, DCH continued to grow its facilities, resources, and services to meet the health care needs of the growing community. In 1999, Downey Community Hospital became Downey Regional Medical Center (DRMC), a total health care system that included a 199-bed hospital and DRMC Insurance Services. Downey Regional Medical Plaza opened in 2003.

In 2013, a Management Services Agreement signed between DRMC and PIH Health created an opportunity for greater collaboration between the two mission-based nonprofit organizations. Downey Regional Medical Center, with the approval of the California Attorney General's office, became part of the PIH Health family as PIH Health Hospital—Downey

on October 1, 2013. The hospital was renamed PIH Health Downey Hospital in 2019. This new partnership has been crucial to meeting Southern Californians' expanding health care needs.

Over the last century, PIH Health Downey Hospital has changed and evolved, but it has always been driven by a mission to provide the best care for its patients and our communities and making enhancements and updates to achieve this goal. It is now the second hospital of a vastly growing health system that services more than three million people.

As PIH Health Downey Hospital looks to the future, the hospital and its staff remain committed to honoring a legacy of healing and hope. By prioritizing the needs of its patients and dedicating itself to meeting their needs and expectations for generations to come, the hospital will continue to have a positive impact in the community for the next 100 years and beyond.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to please join me in thanking and congratulating PIH Health Downey Hospital, and its more than 5,100 compassionate and valued staff, on the hospital's celebration of 100 years providing high-quality health care, and contributing to the health and well-being of our communities in an ethical, safe, and fiscally prudent manner.